

man to whom I allude had not laid aside so much of his common nature as to forget that he was also a civilian: though "Mars's man," and a soldier, he had evidently adopted as his motto and standard the grand verse of Terence—"Homo sum: nil humani a me alienum puto."

So far so good. The esplanade on Southsea-common, and numerous other works of charity and good feeling, had been suggested and carried through by him. You may judge, therefore, of my surprise and regret on finding, on my return to Southsea, that some ill-advised persons had recommended the governor of "the place" to set up two figures, of a deformity so startling that no words can well express their true character. The two figures (I must not call them statues) now erected on Southsea Beach are a disgrace to any civilised community. They would be disowned by New Zealanders or Hindoos. They cannot be too soon removed from their present position, and broken up for road metal. I should be sorry were I by these remarks to give any pain to the officer who, by ordering these figures and setting them up at his own expense, sought to do honour to the great naval and military heroes of the country. But truth is truth, and ought to be spoken out.

It is often asked by the truth-speaking part of the English press, a small part, it is true, of the great mass daily occupied in plastering the people, blaspheming them with fulsome praise for qualities they possess not, and never did,—it is often asked by this portion of the press, on occasion of any great failure in art, "What will foreigners think of us?" Now, I am a "foreign sojourner here in Vienna," and I will tell you. They are not so much startled at your failures in statuary as at the want of knowledge of art, shared alike by all classes, nobility and plebeian. The main cause of this national disgrace, for in some measure it is so, rests with the composition of the nobility and of the Court. Take, as a proof, the "figures" on Southsea Beach.

Of all the courtiers who enjoyed the hospitality of the ex-governor of Portsmouth, the aides-de-camp,—men who would fain pass themselves off as men of *haut ton* and exquisite taste, pinks of fashion and of breeding,—was there none whose taste was equal to discriminate between a New Zealand idol or the figure-head of a Dutch galliot and the statue of a man and a hero?

And such, Mr. Editor, will ever be the case whilst your artistic institutions and the conduct and preservation of the materials for art are in their present hands—the nobility,—in the hands of men who see in Parliament-street, as viewed from Trafalgar-square, the "noblest site in Europe."

If the people of England will take the education of their children and youth into their own hands—make of every school "a school of design" as well as a school of general instruction—the defect in national taste will gradually be overcome, or at least rendered less obtrusive—less offensive. Men of taste, who abound in England as well as elsewhere, will regain their status, and their opinions will be listened to: the British Museum will become what it ought to be—a standard of national taste and science, and not a mere refuge for the personal friends and cast-off servants of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Foreigners will cease to be startled on landing in England; and the islanders, in matters of taste, cease to be a laughing-stock to Europeans. That there really exist some men of taste in England may be inferred even from this,—that although the mass of the people declined looking at the *Richard Cœur de Lion* of Marochetti, preferring the Greek Slave and the Crystal Fountain, the commissioners had the hardihood to prefer this neglected *Cœur de Lion* to the Crystal Fountain, and even to the letter-folder. Through the *Raffaello* Gallery at Hampton Court, it is true, the London mob still scours as fast as they can, wondering, no doubt, what can detain the half-dozen *loutiers* whom they find in such a place! Still I have hopes for England. But to effect this, her children must first be taught the difference between nature

and conventionalism; and taught not to despise genius because it is foreign.

With "the figures" on the beach of Southsea-common I commenced, and with these I shall finish. *They must be removed*: it is a national affair: bury them deep in the Atlantic, lest, being disinterred some day, and their date and locality recognised, a future Macaulay might haplessly infer that, during the reign of Victoria, A.D. 1853, the English people "were sunk in the profoundest barbarism, in witness whereof look at these figures." But it may be said, if we remove these frightful figures, what do you propose placing in their stead? Should these observations be favoured with a place in your journal, I shall tell you in my next communication.

R.

CHURCH NEWS.

Banbury.—The chief stone of the new church for South Banbury, to be called Christ Church, was laid on Tuesday week before last, by Lady North. The church is to consist of nave, chancel and aisles to the nave. The length, including the chancel, is to be, within the walls, 90 feet; including the walls, 105 feet. The width of the nave and aisles is to be 57 feet. The west front, towards Newland, will present the gables of the nave and aisles. The latter are to be of somewhat unusual height, precluding the formation of a clerestory. The entrance is to be by a pointed doorway, with recessed mouldings, into the nave. The plans include a tower and spire on the north side: the tower is intended to be of three stages, supported by buttresses of four stages, in pairs, dying into the walls shortly below the base of the spire. The spire is to be a broach, and will spring from a corbel table. Exclusive of the spire, &c. about 700*l.* remain to be subscribed. The architect of the building is Mr. B. Ferrey; and the builder, Mr. Joseph Hope.

Andover.—The parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Verulam Dean, has been reopened. The church has undergone some extensive repairs, having been repewed, with new vaulted roof, and rebuilt chancel. At the eastern end of the church are five lancet windows. The whole is said to be the design of the curate, the Rev. J. M. Rawlins.

Hillbury.—On Thursday week the consecration of Hillbury Church, near Wotton-under-Edge, took place. The church is cruciform, and consists of nave, north and south aisles, and chancel, with bell turret. The interior is fitted up with low pews of stained wood, carved oak stalls, polished; and the church (which is dedicated to St. Giles) is built of freestone, in the Early English style, from a design furnished by the Rev. B. R. Perkins, vicar of Wotton-under-Edge. The funds, with the exception of 600*l.* given by the Bristol Diocesan Association, have been raised by subscriptions. The church is capable of accommodating 350 persons; the sittings free. The nave is 50 feet long, by 37 feet wide; the chancel 24 feet by 16 feet; the entire length of the building in the exterior is 80 feet.

Bristol.—The church of St. Matthias on the Weir was consecrated on Tuesday week. It is in the Middle Pointed style of architecture. The ground plan consists of a parallelogram, forming a nave, with north and south aisles; the latter shutting on the new street formed by the corporation. A second parallelogram forms a chancel, its east end facing the Public Baths, from which it is separated by another new street, running transversely to the former. The extreme internal length of the building is 136 feet 3 inches, the extreme width 48 feet 10 inches, and the subordinate dimensions are as follows: nave, 80 feet 9 inches by 20 feet 9 inches; aisles, 80 feet 9 inches by 11 feet 9 inches respectively; chancel, 34 feet by 29 feet 9 inches; south porch, 10 feet by 10 feet; western tower, 18 feet 3 inches by 15 feet 3 inches; these are the internal dimensions. The height to the apex of the nave roof is 52 feet; of chancel roof, 43 feet; and the extreme height of the spire, as proposed to be completed by the architect, is 108 feet; only 52 feet, however, of the tower, from which the spire is designed to spring, is now erected. The fittings through-

out are plain, the seats open. The general contractors were Messrs. Wilcock and Sons: carpenter, Mr. J. C. Harris, St. Paul's-plain; smith and founder, Mr. Smith; painter, tiler, and plasterer, Mr. Melsom, St. James's-barton; glazier, Mr. Gay; clerk of works, Mr. George Wall; warming, Messrs. Hadler, of Trowbridge. The church is built of Staple-ton stone, with dressings of Bath stone. The warming is effected by hot air from a chamber beneath the chancel. The architect is Mr. John Norton, of London. The whole cost of the building will not exceed 3,000*l.* The architect has rendered his services gratuitously. The edifice is calculated to accommodate 650 persons. A debt of about 150*l.* still remains to be liquidated.

Dundee.—A new Roman Catholic Chapel (St. Mary's) was opened on Sunday week. It is situated in Maxwelltown. The edifice has a rough unpretending exterior, distinguished only by peculiar windows in the sides, and large crosses on the summits of the gable walls. The doorway is 12 feet wide, and consists of a semicircular arch, with walls 12 feet apart, and divided by a cluster of pillars, 2 feet in diameter. Pillars in the Anglo-Saxon style, on each side, cut off two aisles, giving the whole a cathedral-like appearance. The ceiling of the nave is arched and divided by rib mouldings, while that of the aisles is flat, but divided by semi-circular rib mouldings. The length of the nave from the back of the choir at the entrance, to the back of the chancel, is 152 feet, the width 28½ feet, and the height from the floor to the centre of the ceiling 40 feet. The length of each aisle is 123 feet, width 15 feet, and height 28 feet. The range of arches, seven in number, and semi-circular, are 20 feet 6 inches diameter, and spring at a height of 20 feet from the floor. The pillars, which are 4 feet in diameter, are built of solid blocks of stone 2 feet square, and are 40 feet high—the height of the nave—and at the top are connected by a beam 12 inches square, on which the couples of the roof are supported. The high altar in the chancel is of marble. The windows in the sides of the Church are narrow, and divided into three arched compartments. The glass has a border of various colours. Over the window in the west of chancel end, there is also an oriel window 10 feet 6 inches interior diameter, with mouldings radiating from the centre. The oriel, as well as the window beneath it, are filled with glaringly stained glass, which throws a peculiar shade over the chancel and along the ceiling of the nave. The entire area, it is calculated, will contain about 3,000 persons. The whole building was begun and completed within twelve months, from designs by Mr. Mathewson, of Dundee, architect. The masonry is by Mr. Robertson; plaster-work by Mr. Grekie; carpentry, Mr. Foggie; and glazier-work, Mr. Ower.

Dublin.—St. Patrick's Cathedral, we learn, is about to be restored and fitted up with tabernacle work, similar to that in Chester Cathedral choir; it having been fixed upon, according to a *Chester Paper*, "as possessing grandeur of design and beauty exceeding that of any other Cathedral work in the United Kingdom." Messrs. Bellis and Williams, of Chester, have been engaged to make a full-sized model of one of the stalls, which is to serve as a pattern for those to proceed by to whom the restoration may be intrusted.

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The second conversation of this society was held in the Museum, Taunton, on the evening of the 10th, when the Rev. Mr. Scartbe, of Bath, read a paper on Raby Castle, the stronghold of the Nevilles,—now the property of the Duke of Cleveland. The ancient chapel attached to this important castellated remain has been recently restored, and its window filled with stained glass; but the original piscina and font have been cast away into an obscure porch, and no use made of them. Dr. Woodfinde followed with a paper on British birds, many cases of which were exhibited to illustrate his remarks. The Rev. F. Warre concluded the evening's discussion with a diary of his explorations on Worle-hill.